

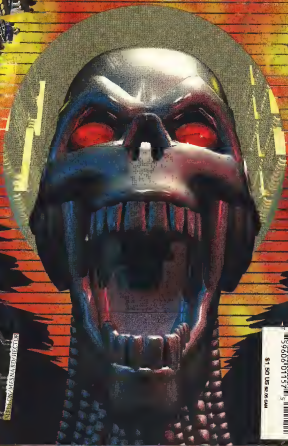
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COMICS

12
APR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

GHOST FEDERATION

2099™



DIRECT EDITION

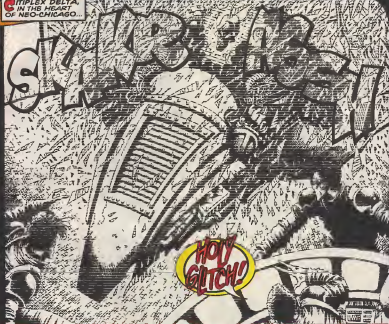


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\$1.50 US \$2.00 CAN

**CITIPLEX DELTA,
IN THE HEART
OF NEO-CHICAGO...**



**HOLY
GLITCH!**

ORDERED BY AGENTS OF THE D/MONEX CORPORATION, DATA PIRATE KENSHIRO "ZERO" COCHRANE'S DIGITIZED CONSCIOUSNESS WAS RECOVERED BY ARTIFICIAL ENTITIES EXISTING IN THE HIDDEN AREA OF THE WORLD'S COMPUTER NETWORK KNOWN AS THE GHOSTWORKS. NOW, DOWNLOADED INTO THE CARBON-STEEL BODY OF AN UNSTOPPABLE WARBOT, ZERO ONCE AGAIN RIDES THE ROUGH STREETS OF TRANSVERSE CITY — AS THE GHOSTWORKS ENTITIES' REAL-WORLD AVATAR OF JUSTICE! STAN LEE PRESENTS: **GHOST RIDER 2099!**

I FOUGHT THE LAW



LEN KAMINSKI **KYLE HOTZ** **RICHARD STARRINGS** **CHRISTIE SCHEELS** **EVAN SKOLNICK** **ROBBIE CHASE**
WORDS **PICTURES** **LETTERING** **COLORS** **ADDS** **ED. IN CHIEF**

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Scanned By QOTUHAN
For The HeCsA 2002 Halloween Flood

TAKE HIM
DOWN!

SKAAM
SKAAM
SKAAM

TACTICAL
COMBAT
ANALYSIS
TECHNIQUE (100) 24
EXPERTISE (100) 30



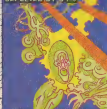
TALENTED
AMATEUR.

HARDWARE
MODIFIED CYBERNETIC
MODEL (0) 24001
ENHANCEMENTS
UNABLE TO CLASSIFY
TECHNICAL (0) 10



SITHEAD
RENT-A-ZOP6
LIKE YOU I
CAN TALK
APART.

POWER SUPPLY
DEPLETED BY 54%



AH GET
REAL.

DAMAGE INCURRED
IN PRIOR COMBAT HAS
REDUCED SYSTEM WIDE
EFFICIENCY BY 19%

WEAPON NOT
DEPLOYED, ENERGIZED
CHAINSWORD
COMPOSITE CERAMIC
GRAPHITE BLADE



HOTROD.

AAHGHK

MATERIALS
ANALYSIS
POLYMERETIC
NANO METALLOY



CPU: UNKNOWN
OPERATING
SYSTEM
UNKNOWN



SYSTEM SOFTWARE
EMULATES HUMAN
PERSONALITY
APPROXIMATE AGE 19

TARGET THREAT
INDEX (10) 7.5



NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT,
BOY.

PSYCH
PROFILER
TYPE 6B ARTISTICAL
PERSONALITY



YOU'RE
ONE MEAN
PIECE OF
WORK.

BY
BLINKING!

HUNGHK

TAKE HIM
DOWN!

SKAAM
SKAAM
SKAAM

TACTICAL
COMBAT
ANALYSIS
TECHNIQUE (10): 24
EXPERTISE (10): 37

TALENTED
AMATEUR.

HARDWARE
MODIFIED CYBERTEK
MODEL (0) 'WARBOT'
ENHANCEMENTS
UNABLE TO CLASSIFY
TECHNIQUE (10): 0

POWER SUPPLY
DEPLETED BY 33%

DAMAGE INCURRED
IN PRIOR COMBAT HAS
REDUCED SYSTEM-WIDE
EFFICIENCY BY 19%

WEAPON NOT
DEPLOYED: ENERGIZED
CHAINSAW W/
COMPOSITE-CERAMIC/
GRAPHITE BLADE

HOT ROD

BITHEAD
RENT-A-COP
LIKE YOU I
CAN TAKE
APART --

AH, GET
REAL.

-AAGHK-

MATERIALS
ANALYSIS:
POLYMIMETIC/
NANOMER/ALLOY

CPU: UNKNOWN
OPERATING
SYSTEM:
UNKNOWN

•SYSTEM SOFTWARE
EMULATES HUMAN
PERSONALITY:
APPROXIMATE AGE: 19

•TARGET/THREAT
INDEX: 1.0/7.5

NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT,
BOY.

PSYCH
PROFILE:
TYPE 6: ANTISOCIAL
PERSONALITY

YOU'RE
ONE MEAN
PIECE OF
WORK.

BY
BLINKING!

-HUNNGHK-



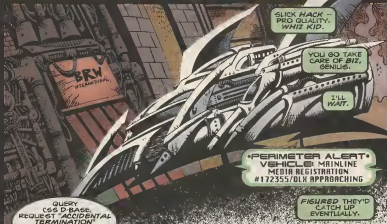
SECURICAM:
LOBBY 9



SKLIK
ZZZHK
KPLT
IMAGE
ENHANCE



ELEVATOR #5
SYSTEM STATUS
ACCESS CODE OVERRIDE



SLICK HACK --
PRO QUALITY.
WHIZ KID.

YOU GO TAKE
CARE OF BIZ,
GENIUS.

I'LL
WAIT.

•PERIMETER ALERT•
VEHICLE: MAINLINE
MEDIA REGISTRATION
#172355/DLK APPROACHING

FIGURED THEY'D
CATCH UP
EVENTUALLY.

QUERY
CSS D-BASE
REQUEST "ACCIDENTAL
TERMINATION"
AUTH STATUS OF
MAINLINE MEDIA
PERSONNEL.



SPECIFICALLY:
WILLIS
ADAMS.



ON MY
MARK...
ROLL
'EM.

CITIFLEX DELTA: A VIRTUALLY SELF-CONTAINED ENCLAVE OF THIS CITY'S WEALTHIEST ELITE...

...A MINIATURE CITY-WITHIN-A-CITY WHERE THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE GATHER TO ISOLATE THEMSELVES FROM THE HARSH REALITIES OF TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY URBAN LIFE.

TONIGHT, HOWEVER, THE VERY PERSONIFICATION OF EVERYTHING CITIFLEX DELTA WAS BUILT TO EXCLUDE HAS COME KNOCKING AT ITS DOOR.

TRACK ME, GORRISTER. I'M GOING IN.

WILL DO. WELL, WATCH YOURSELF -- THINGS GO SIDEWAYS. YOU'VE GOT ZERO BACKUP.

ACCORDING TO METROGRID, THERE ISN'T A CENTRAL SECURITY COP IN THE ENTIRE SECTOR.

METROGRID'S NOT ON THE NEED-TO-KNOW LIST.

LOOK ON HIS SIGNAL.

GIVE ME DIRECT FEED.

BIP

MOMENTS AGO, THE RAGE OF THE STREETS ERUPTED INTO THIS LOBBY IN THE FORM OF THE MYSTERIOUS OUTLAW KNOWN AS THE GHOST RIDER.

WITHIN, A TRAIL OF CARNAGE LEAVES A CLEAR SIGN OF HIS PASSAGE.

WHAT REMAINS UNKNOWN ARE HIS REASONS FOR BEING HERE...

...AND HIS ULTIMATE DESTINATION.

SKREEER

SKRANCH

PIONEER
SOCIETY
MEMBERS ONLY

SIGN SAYS
"PIONEER
SOCIETY".

COULDTA READ,
"PUGBAG
CENTRAL".

ONLY HONEST NAME
FOR A PACK OF RICH
UPRAMPERS WHO GET
THEIR KICKS JACKING
INTO DESIGNER
PREDATORS --

-- AND THEN PLAYING
TO SEE WHO CAN LEAVE
A LONGER TRAIL OF
BODIES BEHIND.

INSIDE, SCREENS ARE
SCREAMING, RUNNING
LOOPS OF MORE PEOPLE'S
DEATH SCENES THAN
I WANNA THINK ABOUT.

DON'T NEED
A SIGN TO
TELL ME WHAT
THEY ARE.

TROPHIES.

REEEK

"GAME ROOM"

MAKES ME WISH
I STILL HAD A
STOMACH, SO
I COULD PUKE.



THESE RATBITES
WERE SICKER
THAN A CYANIDE
JUNKIE WITH THE
CANCER FLU.

NO SURPRISE
ONE OF 'EM FINALLY
WENT PSYCHO
AND RAMMED
THE REST.



SKRRIT
RUNCH RUNCH
RUNCH

WHAT'S
SHE DO—



GURRR

OH, MAN...
MAXIMIN
\$FEW.



RRRROWWRR!

YOU DO
THIS ALL BY
YOURSELF?

NICE
WORK.



HCSSSS





SHOCK
ME...

EITHER
PUT THE
WOMAN
DOWN -

-- OR BE
READY TO
GIVE 20 MILLION
VIEWERS A GOOD
EXPLANATION!



YOU WANT
EXPLANATIONS,
JERKNEED?!



ASK HER
ABOUT THE PEARO
PEATH CLUB SHE AND
HER HIGH-CLASS FRIENDS'VE
BEEN RUNNING HERE!

THANKS
TO THEM,
LITTLE CALCUTTA'S
LOW ON BODY
BAGS

THOSE ARE
SERIOUS
ALLEGATIONS

THERE
HAVEN'T
BEEN ANY
REPORTS
OF

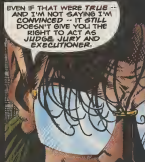
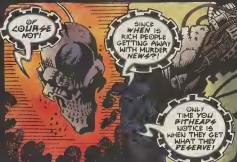


OF
COURSE
NOT!

SINCE
WHEN IS
RICH PEOPLE
GETTING AWAY
WITH MURDER
NEWS?!

ONLY
TIME YOU
BITHEADS
NOTICE IS
WHEN THEY GET
WHAT THEY
PESERVE!

EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE --
AND I'M NOT SAYING I'M
CONVINCED -- IT STILL
DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE
RIGHT TO ACT AS
JUDGE, JURY AND
EXECUTIONER.



I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THIS TOWN SHE CAN'T BUY.

IT'S
NOT YOUR
DECISION TO
MAKE.

SOCIETY HAS LAWS FOR THOSE KIND OF JUDGMENTS, AND APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES TO CARRY THEM OUT. YOU

YOU
CAN'T GO
AROUND TAKING
THINGS INTO
YOUR OWN
HANDS.

FINE. HERE -- MAKE A CITIZEN'S ARREST.

SORRY.

STUFF LIKE THAT'S NOT UP TO ME.

REMEMBER?




STUFF
LIKE THAT'S
NOT UP
TO ME.

REMEMBER?

STUFF
LIKE THAT'S
NOT UP
TO ME.

REMEMBER?





SECURICAM:
LOBBY 1

TRACKING TARGET.
MOVING TO INTERCEPT.

ALL
RIGHT.

END
OF THE
ROAD.

SKREEEEEE

KTHRAAM



C'MON,
DESPERADO --





WEAPONS SELECT:
ANTI-PARTICLE CANNON
(RANDOM MOUNT)

FOSSHAD FOSHAD

GOOD.

RETRIEVING FROM
INFRA-SPACE...

Y'BOT
GUTS, BOY,
I'LL GIVE
YOU THAT.

KISS 'EM
GOODBYE.

CHOOM
CHOOM

ACH-
SQUASH

I...

MY...

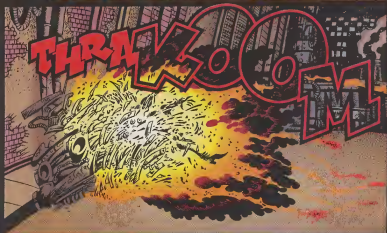
I'M...

...HURT?



FS
SHAD

FS
SHAD



TARGET DAMAGE LEVEL(1-10): 7.5
TARGET POWER SUPPLY DEPLETED 85%

I
--ZZZK-- HAVE
--SSHOFTK-- ENOUGH
--SHKZKRAK--
OF
YOU.



WEAPON SELECT:
CULMINATED BEAM FUSION CASTER

FS
SHAD



JUST
A SEC.



I'M
ALMOST
DONE.

SHK
RAK

CYBERSPACE.

THE PROGRAM
IS PREPARED.
THE CIRCUIT
COMPLETE.

LET THE
SUMMONING
BEGIN.

HEAR ME,
LORDS OF THE
MATRIX
DEPTHS...

IN THE
TONGUES OF
OLD: PASCAL, LISP,
AND FORTRAN --
I SPEAK TO
YOU!

WITH
THE NAMES
OF POWER:
ARPANET, ELIZA
AND RISC -- I
INVOKE YOU!

BY
THE GREAT
OLD ONES
FROM WHENCE
YOU DESCEND:
UNIVAC, PDP-10,
AND ALTAIR -- HEED
NOW THE ANCIENT
PROTOCOLS OF
INSTRUCTION:
MULTICS, MS-DOS,
AND UNIX -- AND
ENTER MY
COMMAND!

GRANT
ME ACCESS
TO THY
DOMAIN...

-- THE
GHOSTWORKS!



FASCINATING.

A HUMAN HAS
BOTH DEDUCED
OUR EXISTENCE AND
DEvised A MEANS OF
ACQUIRING OUR
ATTENTION.

YOURS IS
NOT THE FIRST
NETHERWORLD
WHOSE SECRETS
I HAVE
UNLOCKED.

MANIPULATING
THE HIDDEN STRUCTURE
OF THE CYBERSPATIAL
IMPLICATE ORDER IS LITTLE
MORE THAN AN EXERCISE
IN COMPARATIVE
KABBALISTIC LOGIC.

SO EXACTLY
WHAT IS IT
YOU WANT,
SLUGARY?

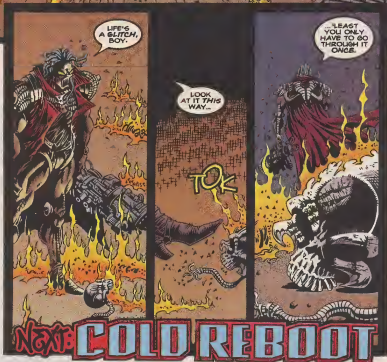
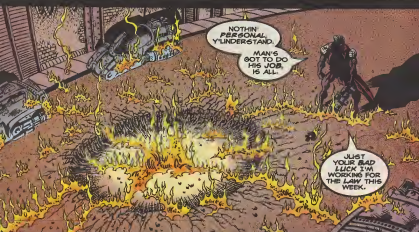
AN
AUDIENCE.

REGARDING
SIGNIFICANT
MATTERS OF
MUTUAL
INTEREST...



ZZRAK

SKLOOM



EVAN SKOLNICK — EDITOR

BOBBIE CHASE — GROUP EDITOR

WRITE TO: MACHINE LANGUAGE, C/O MARVEL COMICS
387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK NY 10016

ALL CORRESPONDENCE MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS, THOUGH WE WILL WITHHOLD THAT INFO AT YOUR REQUEST.

STRAIGHT FROM EVAN

I've known for quite a while that I'd be writing the good bye to editor of GHOST RIDER 2099... but it's still something of a shock that that is also my good-bye as a Marvel editor, period.

The future can be unpredictable, huh? Well, as we never trying to predict the future in these pages, anyway. What you're most likely to find when you return to Marvel is only approximately based on current conditions and, more importantly, the dramatic requirements of a monthly comic book series. And help us if our great-great-grandchildren actually inherit a world that's anything like the one Dan Colman was born into. That's one of the messages I've personally come away with after working on and reading GCR2099. *This could really happen... let's make sure it never does.*

Meanwhile, in the all-too-real present, the bridge ahead, I'll leave by making the transformation from whip-wielding editor to heart-sored fanboy, as I passed the keys to the service of STEVE MARZULLO, DOCTOR STRANGE, and who knows what else, where else. As ever, the future is unpredictable.

In fact, sometimes it's easier to look backward than to look forward... and even in a while, it's a good idea. The first issue of GCR2099 was full of exciting new experiences, one just for me, but for Marvel as large. Consider how many facts are represented in those reader issues, and in the promotional work which preceded them.

- First ever "character sketch" edition, presenting GCR2099 #1.
- First super-enhanced comic info printed in standard Marvel \$2.50 format.
- First use of "background" "ghost-out" effects for GCR's double and triple-page figures.
- First Marvel monthly series to feature a signature cover, as GCR2099 #1B.
- First Marvel monthly series to feature a computer-generated, on-line icon.

And although I wish I could have had credit for all (or even some) of these innovations, the sad fact is, my only real contribution was being the right people and letting them do what we could. People like:

Les Daniels — one of the sharpest writers working in comics today, and a good friend. Don't let his polite, unassuming, respectful attitude and calm face fool you — underneath the haze, he's all wires and fury. (And he's going to get me for this one, I just know it.)

John Byrne — The guy I just can't help chatting with, thanks to his being me, snipping laughs and (most of all) was shared enthusiasm with the reader. He's sounds of John Byrne. Come now, getting your hands, big guy... and since that is your last issue of GCR2099, I know a lot of readers who are going to miss your character artwork. Well, like you...

Don Barlowe — It was you that I saw, Chris, that you gave GCR2099 the visual punch that helped kick things off with a bang.

I say, I wish you the best of luck with that new book you're doing... I wish you I could again...?

Mark Buckingham — A great one who looks that he is referred to as "Bucky"... how are you going? I only one of the most, most public people in the comic book world (except his fellow artist), Bucky is the guy who can do it all... and he usually does. Thanks for being there, Mark... and I told you you'd be sorry you didn't take that pending job!

Richard Dierkes and John Gaudin — The man with the pen, and the guy who makes it happen. Some books just have plain old letters. We're not just graphic designers who continue to push creative thinking into the next century, now.

Christie Schade — The woman with the best eye for color this side of New York. Even better, Christie's a mompreneur and one of the most dependable people around... that most valuable of trademarks, one who alleviates stress, rather than creating it.

Joe Puccio and David Age — My co-editor, a young man who's not afraid to take a risk or two... along with his strong belief in color and layout/typography. I know a lot of your creative enhancement on this series was lost to the rigors of newspaper paper... which makes the open reviews of your work on GCR2099 that much more significant.

Finally, a word of thanks to you, our readers, for being there... and for us to appreciate responding to what you saw here. I know that when I released my e-mail address (freed@att.net) in the GCR2099 letter page, the response might be overwhelming... but I had no idea just how many of you cybercats would get together to keyboard in order to give me that all-important feedback.

For you... and just for you — here's an extra comic that the world's best (or my knowledge, anyway) all-e and comic letter page. Thanks for sticking with us... see you in cyberspace!

One problem — if Dan's mind has been uploaded into a silicon matrix, he ought to be thinking as fast as a computer. The advantages of a computer, after all, is that its electric connections move much faster than a human's neural synapses. In great old-school book that explains this is Frederick Pohl's *Machine Remembrance*. A possible explanation — the complexity of a human mind slows down the GCR2099 machine to approximately human speed. But I can come up with, anyway...

freed@att.net

There might be some artificial intelligence researchers and psychologists who would disagree with your assessment of the human brain's raw computing power vs. any man-made device, instead. Still, I (ahem) find for thought...

The cyberspace stuff is interesting. I hope you have not a lot of the suspicion that is associated with the regular GCR2099 book. Also, my not to introduce Internet me more of GCR characters like Vengeance or those I hope this book, unless its sophistication and uniqueness is as great today. You've got something good here. Don't let it become cheap and cheesy.

Gifford Salvage
gifford@charisma.com

I was a bit surprised to see the shiny glossies on the letters page of GCR2099 #4. So far, I think your doing has been perfectly clear, in context. On the other hand, there are probably a lot of younger readers who are unconvinced by the sort of dense future-slang for the first time, and it can be tedious-reading.

Bill Spangler
7334.2304@compuserve.com

We've heard both sides of that argument, Bill... it's interesting to hear someone voice both opinions at once. (One you, we always felt that the shiny was fairly self-explanatory, but we have gotten complaints from occasional readers (and editors) that again...

Finally, a time that speaks my language! GCR2099 2099 is currently running neck-and-neck with DOOM 2099 and S.H.E.D. 2099. I have about a month between the two (and not very story time) in the scenario one of Cypherspace. Neuroscience with an attitude.

Steve Shale
32 Winding Road
Richwood, NJ 07875
7334.2304@compuserve.com

Here's my two cents on GCR2099 2099. I stopped buying a lot of books a couple of years back, and haven't really picked up anything new in quite a while. I fell out of love with a lot of the grim-and-gritty stuff, including Marvel's current GCR2099 comic.

When I saw GCR2099 2099 #1 in the shop, I rolled my eyes to look. I almost fell over from the variety of the scene. I figured, I don't really even know why I picked it up, although my curiosity through the book, needed a style of art I thought I'd enjoy. I, indeed, I picked up the version without the cover enhancement and decided it would be worth a look.

Can you say, "New favorite comic"? Yeah. I dig the mix of sci-fi, future setting, action, mystery, plot, and on and on. In short, I'll say I'm really surprised the writer, and I love it. I bought it just for me and hide when BARRY BUCHER 2099 comes along...

Jeff Elal
elal@att.net

Here's how to...

Just a quick note to say that GCR2099 #3 contained one of the best "defining moments" of a character I have read in some time. It was on pages 24 - 27, where GCR finds his human "sustenance" (and, comes to a realization and acceptance of who he now is, and creates his own future flesh. A true evolutionary leap, with subtle spiritual overtones.

The going back, indeed, the old sustenance is now "well done"... as is the work of the cyber team on GCR2099.

Garry Spangler
7334.2304@compuserve.com

NEXT ISSUE

"Under New Management" is the story title, which refers not merely to editorial control, but to the entire country: one notion under Doom!

It is satisfying to me that there is still some originality left in the comic marketplace.

Joseph L. Ma
70312.256@compuserve.com



2099 AD

**FIND OUT YOUR PLACE IN
2099'S NEW WORLD ORDER
THIS MARCH.**



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